

via lcam follows. Olympia Dukakis, who stars in the drama *Day on Fire*, is expected to make an appearance at one of her two film screenings (Thursday and Saturday at 8 p.m.). Filmmakers James Longley (*Iraq in Fragments*), Milena Kaneva (*Total Denial*), and Alex Gibney (*Enron: The Movie*) are all scheduled to appear. And Jarecki, whose 2005 doc *Why We Fight* won a grand jury prize at Sundance, will teach a three-hour media lab on Sunday at 1 p.m. Three nights of live music and a Friday night community potluck dinner round out the five days of brainy cinema.

Mountaintop grew out of a serendipitous meeting five years ago between Becker and Kimberly Ead, now festival manager. At the time, Becker was a teacher—she holds a master's degree in special education from the University of Munich—and an informal consultant to her husband's filmmaking. But she was looking for new pursuits that would express her "deep sense of political concern." Ead, who was working on antiwar issues at Burlington's Peace and Justice Center, offered just that. "Claudia and I really connected," Ead remembers. "We combined her contacts in the film industry and my work as an activist to create the festival."

Both women have a strong commitment to educating youth about film and filmmaking, and it shows in the festival. This year, students from area high schools, including Harwood Union, Mt. Mansfield, Burlington and Vergennes, will be bussed in for special screenings. "I'd like to add more educational components to the theater," Becker says, looking to the future, "like a media literacy program and a documentary filmmaking program."

And the future looks bright, judging by the success of the festival so far. Becker points to an increase in "the level of recognition. . . and in the turnout. The festival has established itself as one of the premier film festivals in Vermont."

One positive change is that the fest is no longer a renter—this is the first year Becker has owned its venue. After the previous owners shut their doors, Waitsfield locals kept talking about the need for a community space. Becker decided she needed to buy the theater and make it a viable epicenter of the Mad River Valley. Vowing to spend every last dime she had, she purchased the building, hired a construction crew, and began a major renovation.

In May 2006, Becker re-opened the theater and unveiled the transformed space: an open-kitchen cafe with a full bar, old-fashioned soda fountain, and Internet lounge; a newly renovated smaller theater with flexible seating, to be used for both movie showings and community events; and a largely untouched traditional movie theater.

Becker's vision for the aptly named Big Picture was a "local gathering place with a global dimension," she says. "And I wanted the name to reflect my personal desire for teaching, discourse and thought exchange."

Her political beliefs aren't just talk. Becker demonstrates her commitment to the "local" by letting organizations rent the space at a price that often just covers her costs. To accommodate area events, she formed a partnership with the nonprofit Open Hearth Community Center, which "wouldn't have a home without Claudia," says Open Hearth program manager Kirstin Reilly. "She has worked with the board to create a space that is useful for the community's needs."

Becker has brought an eclectic mix of first-run and documentary films, thought-provoking discussions, music, comedy and art exhibits to Big Picture. Last fall, New Hampshire comedian Cindy Pierce drew a huge crowd for her show on the mysteries of

women's sexuality. Soon after, the theater filled up again for a discussion of international security issues with former U.N. weapons inspector Scott Ritter.

Becker says she's still working on balancing her political passions with the need to turn a profit. "It has been a real learning experience to find what works and what doesn't," she admits. "Live music continues to be a challenge. But when we bring in a political speaker, the place is packed."

Becker seems to have found a management style that suits her: a nonhierarchical organization that still allows her to jump in and be the boss when needed. And when friends and family visit, they're put to work. Jarecki is often seen pouring beers behind the bar. The couple's daughter Anna has baked cookies to sell in the cafe.

"When I was hiring, I was very careful to find people who had a positive attitude and a predisposition for multitasking," Becker says. Her core team is composed of women: Ead; theater manager Jo-Anne Billings; and chef Amanda Astheimer, who aims to deliver on Becker's international culinary vision. Several men work as projectionists and concessions staff.

All hands will be on deck during this week's film festival. "I am looking forward to it all being over, just so I can take a breath," Becker says.

But she also recognizes that a busy theater is the best reward. Becker defines success as "seeing people having a great time; working with and within the community; feeling that I am doing something that is greater than myself." If she can bring new issues and ideas to filmgoers' attention, so much the better.

"I want to open people's minds and inspire discourse," Becker says. "I don't believe I can have an impact on what people do with the information, but I feel it is important to get it out there." ●

TRIBUTE TO GREEN MOUNTAIN COFFEE ROASTERS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I am pleased to inform my colleagues that for the second consecutive year, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters of Waterbury, VT, has been named the top overall firm on Corporate Responsibility Officers Magazine's annual list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens. This is the first time any company has been awarded this prestigious title 2 years in a row.

Green Mountain Coffee's award is rooted in the leading role the company plays in the specialty coffee and fair trade industries. By constantly striving to lead the company to exemplary corporate citizenship, Bob Stiller, Green Mountain Coffee's president and CEO, has molded the company into a socially responsible and environmentally conscious business that makes Vermonters proud.

I congratulate Bob and all of the employees at Green Mountain Coffee for this well-deserved recognition. Mr. President, they make great coffee, they do business well, and they do great business—and these accomplishments, I believe, are related. I ask unanimous consent that a copy of the following article from the *Rutland Herald* be printed in the *RECORD* so that all Senators can read about the success and admirable business practices of this visionary company.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the *RECORD*, as follows:

[From the *Rutland Herald*, Feb. 15, 2007]

VT. COMPANY NAMED TOP CORPORATE CITIZEN

For the second year in a row, Green Mountain Coffee Roasters Inc. has been ranked No. 1 on the list of 100 Best Corporate Citizens, published by CRO magazine.

This is the fifth consecutive year that Green Mountain Coffee Roasters has made the list. It is the only time a company has been awarded the top spot for 2 years running, and it is the only company other than IBM that has been ranked first twice.

The Waterbury company shares honors this year with Micro Devices, IBM, The Timberland Company and Starbucks Corp.

Now in its eighth year, the 100 Best Corporate Citizens list was developed by Business Ethics magazine, which became CRO, an organization for Corporate Responsibility Officers.

The list is drawn from more than 1,100 of the largest U.S. publicly held companies and identifies those that excel at serving a variety of stakeholders. Firms are ranked on performance in eight categories: shareholders, governance, community, diversity, employees, environment, human rights and product.

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters offers a comprehensive selection of double-certified, Fair Trade organic coffee. Fair Trade provides coffee growers a fair price and a guaranteed minimum floor price for their crops. In 2006, the company introduced a line of eco-friendly paper cups that use a corn product, instead of petroleum-based products, to make them waterproof.

Robert Stiller, president and CEO of Green Mountain Coffee Roasters, said: "It's particularly rewarding to see how our efforts are improving people's lives and contributing to positive change in the world."

Green Mountain Coffee Roasters sells more than 100 specialty coffees, including Fair Trade Certified and organic coffees under the Green Mountain Coffee Roasters and Newman's Own Organics brands.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 342. To designate the United States courthouse located at 555 Independence Street in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the "Rush Hudson Limbaugh, Sr. United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

H.R. 547. To facilitate the development of markets for biofuels and Ultra Low Sulfur Diesel fuel through research and development and data collection; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The following concurrent resolutions were read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 20. Concurrent resolution calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, and public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Patrick Finucane, as recommended by Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park Agreement, in order to move forward on the Northern Ireland peace process; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

H. Con. Res. 63. Concurrent resolution disapproving of the decision of the President announced on January 10, 2007, to deploy more than 20,000 additional United States combat troops to Iraq; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.